illicit poppy cultivation and take effective steps for destruction of such crop and eradication of such illicit cultivation.

3. Illicit cultivation of opium poppy is an offence under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985, attracting a mandatory minimum punishment of 10 years' rigorous imprisonment (R.I.) and a fine of Rs. 1 lakh extendable to 20 years' R. I. and a fine of Rs. 2 lakhs. The courts have been empowered to impose fines exceeding these limits. The Act also requires that every officer of the Government and every panch/sarpanch and other village officers to give information to the enforcement authorities when it comes to his knowledge that any land has been illegally cultivated with the opium poppy and every officer, who neglects to give such information is liable to punishment.

4. The Prevention of Illiict Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Phychotropic Substances Ordinance, 1988 also, *inter alia* provides for detention of any person indulging in illicit cultivation of opium poppy.

Bank Loans

*270. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Working Group of the Indian Banks' Association had suggested liberal bank loans against the security of gold/silver jewellary to cater to the common needs of public;

(b) if so, whether the Working Group has been set up to study the impact of the private financial unincorporated bodies on deposit mobilisation by the commercial banks;

(c) what were the other points made in the study report;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the Reserve Bank had instructed the commercial banks to grant loans upto Rs. 10 crores per borrower but the scheme had not picked up momentum due to the non-availability of the necessary infrastructure facilities; and

(e) if so, what other suggestions have been made by the Study Group and to what extent they have been accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c) A Working Group set up by the Indian Banks Association to study the impact of Private Financiers Unincorporated Bodies (PFUBs) on the resource mobilisation of the banks has suggested *inter-alia* the followings:

(i) Intensive publicity for educating the masses about the pit falls in associating with PFUBs.

(ii) Sanctioning of bank loans against gold/silver ornamen's to catering to the consumption needs of the general public.

(iii) Payment of interest on term deposits on monthly rests instead of quarterly rests.

(d) No such instructions have been issued by the Reserve Bank of India. As per the instructions of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) the banks are permitted to grant advances against gold jewellery upto Rs. 10,000/- only.

(e) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has yet to formulate its views on the suggestions of the Study Group.

Overdraft by Government of Mizoram

*271. SHRI M. KADHARSHA :
DR. C. SILVERA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) what is the amount of overdraft allowed to the Mizoram Government;

(b) what is the amount of overdraft against the State at present;

(c) whether Government or the Reserve Bank have issued any instructions to the Mizoram Government to contain the overdraft; and

(d) what steps are being taken to recover the overdraft amount?